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# MEDIA RELEASE

John Robertson MLC



Minister for Corrective Services  
Minister for Public Sector Reform  
Special Minister of State

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Friday, 29 May

## MINISTER: LOCAL PRISONS WILL NOT BE OUTSOURCED

Minister for Corrective Services John Robertson will meet with officers at Bathurst Correctional Centre today to talk about local prison issues. Local Member for Bathurst Gerard Martin invited the Minister to speak to the officers after receiving several local enquiries about the New South Wales prison system.

“Under no circumstances will this Government outsource Bathurst, Kirkconnell, Oberon or Lithgow Correctional Centres to the private sector,” said Mr Robertson.

“The only prison where operations are being outsourced is Parklea Correctional Centre in Western Sydney – where officers have the option of moving to one of eight prisons within a 25 km radius.

“I want to make it absolutely clear – this Government will not outsource any prison functions beyond the measures already announced.

“No Correctional Officer in Bathurst should have any concerns about the future of the Gaol. Bathurst, Kirkconnell, Oberon and Lithgow Correctional Centres will remain public under a Labor Government.”

“What remains unclear is what the Liberal Party will do if they win Government in 2011 – workers and communities in prison towns deserve to know where the Liberal/Nationals stand on this issue.”

***Minister for Corrective Services John Robertson and Local Member for Bathurst Gerard Martin will be available to speak to media at 11:00am, Friday 28 May at the Bathurst Correctional Centre, Cnr Browning Street and Brook Moore Avenue, Bathurst.***

Mr Robertson will also take questions from officers at today’s meeting about changes taking place in prisoner escorts and court security.

“Prisoner Escort and Court Security officers across NSW have been given a six month window to identify and implement reforms that will make the service more efficient,” said Mr Robertson.

“If the workforce and management work together to achieve savings, the Government will not outsource the transport function.”

The Minister has also reiterated that employment is guaranteed for all Corrective Services employees impacted by any part of the Government’s workplace reforms.

“No employee in Corrective Services will be out of a job under any of the changes taking place across the state – any officer that wants to work has a guaranteed position within the Department.”

Local Member for Bathurst Gerard Martin welcomed the Minister’s announcement and is continuing to campaign for an expansion of existing correctional facilities in the region.

“There is funding out there for another 150 inmate beds in the prison system and I’m hoping those beds can be built here in the Central West,” said Mr Martin.

“The prison facilities at Bathurst, Kirkconnell, Lithgow and Oberon already employ more than 500 local residents – it would be great to see that figure increase.”

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